

MEDIA RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jamie Melton

Fire & Life Safety Educator
615.550.6862
jamie.melton@franklintn.gov

11 November 2010

Franklin Firefighters kick off their annual toy and clothing drive *3rd annual event to benefit hundreds of Williamson County children, families*

Franklin, TN - With the support of the community, Franklin Firefighters hope to help hundreds of Williamson County children in need have a Merry Christmas.

The 3rd Annual Franklin Firefighters' Toy and Clothes Drive will kick off on Thursday, November 18th during a reception at Community First Bank and Trust, 9045 Carothers Parkway, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. In addition to Franklin Fire Stations and City Hall, Community First Bank and Trust is a collection station this year.

According to organizer and Franklin Fire Engineer David Edge, the first year of the program (2008) benefitted 180 primarily Franklin children, identified by the Boys and Girls Club of Franklin. Last year, Edge said the program was expanded to include the Fairview chapter of the Boys and Girls Club and benefitted more than 300 children. This year, in addition to working once again with the Boys and Girls Club and helping children throughout Williamson County, firefighters will "adopt" Williamson County families who may be struggling due to the economy, the May flooding or other circumstances. Those seeking assistance should contact the department at (615) 791-3270.

"We're so grateful to the community for supporting this event and helping us to expand it every year to meet the growing need in our area," said Edge. He said that many organizations and individuals have already called, wanting to get involved.

To contribute, stop by any Franklin Fire Station, City Hall or Community First Bank and Trust and select a card from the Christmas fire hydrant toy drive display with a child's specific gift request on it. "This year we're stressing the importance of filling the gift requests," said Edge. He said that many children simply ask for necessities such as coats, shoes and even underclothes. Monetary donations are accepted as well, and all contributions are tax deductible. New, unwrapped gifts should be returned with request cards to the collection stations by December 12th.

Firefighters and volunteers will wrap the gifts and prepare them for distribution at two Christmas parties, which will take place on December 17th at the Fourth Avenue Church of Christ.

Fox 17 morning news anchor Nick Paranjape is returning as Grand Marshal of the event.

-More-



For more information please contact the Franklin Fire Department at (615) 791-3270 or visit our website at www.franklintn.gov/fire.

Collection stations:

- City Hall - 109 3rd Ave. South, Ste. 133
- Community First Bank & Trust - 9045 Carothers Pkwy.
- Station 1- 500 New Highway 96 West
- Station 2 - 907 Murfreesboro Rd.
- Station 3 - 298 Mallory Station Rd.
- Station 4 - 2039 Fieldstone Pkwy.
- Station 5 - 215 Noah Dr.
- Station 6 - 1061 Cool Springs Blvd.



Franklin Firefighters at Fire Station 2 with the Toy and Clothing Drive fire hydrant display. Each tag on the display contains a child's description and gift request with shoe and/or clothing sizes included. Pictured left to right – Firefighter Paramedics Terry Storey and Joe Posey, Firefighters David Cloud, Rodney Ballington, Tyler Crews and Captain Scott Mainord.

###